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Title: Need to sanction funds for developing tourism infrastructure in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): The city of Kolhapur in Maharashtra has a large number of historical monuments. The various monuments include Mahalaxmi Mandir, Jotiba Temple, Panhala, Khidrapur Temples & its remains (an ancient temple), Bahubali (Holy place of Jain religion), Dajipur reserved forest.

All the above places are of great historical importance and a large number of tourist visit these places every year. Kolhapur is also famous for leather footware and goods besides silver ornaments. Kolhapur is also a centre of high quality jaggery which is even exported to western countries.

Inspite of all this, the civic facilities and other infrastructure required for attracting tourists is not available and development of Kolhapur and its surrounding areas as a tourist attraction is delayed. The necessary financial assistance for this entire project has been sought by the State Government of Maharashtra from the Central Government. The entire project with details has been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to Ministry of Tourism.

Through your good office Sir, I urge the Prime Minister and the Tourism Minister to sanction necessary funds to develop Kolhapur and surrounding historical monuments on the lines of Nanded city in Maharashtra.